

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 EB-08 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 XMB-02
FRB-03 NRC-05 /153 W

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R 201355Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USLO RIYADH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8056

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 00625

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, KU, SA, TC
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF VISITING UAE, KUWAIT AND
SAUDI ARABIA

1. PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF DEPARTED MALTA ON MARCH 19 FOR VISITS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA. ALBERT MIZZI, CHAIRMAN OF AIR MALTA AND SEA MALTA, JOE CASSAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, JOE SAMMUT, ECONOMIC ADVISOR, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, AND MARTIN ZAMMIT, INTERPRETER ARE ACCOMPANYING MINTOFF. THE DELEGATION WILL BE JOINED IN RIYADH BY FOREIGN SECRETARY MAURICE ABELA AND LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARIAN KARMENU VELLA; BOTH WERE IN SAUDI ARABIA BRIEFLY LAST WEEK, PRESUMABLY TO PREPARE FOR MINTOFF'S VISIT.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MINTOFF'S TRIP IS TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MALTA AND THE THREE GULF STATES. MINTOFF IS PAR-
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TICULARLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INCREASED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR MALTA'S MARSAXLOKK PROJECT, A TEN YEAR, US DOLS 120 MILLION PORT DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SAUDI ARABIA HAS ALREADY PLEDGED A US DOLS 15 MILLION SOFT LOAN FOR THIS PROJECT AND LOCAL PRESS SOURCES SPECULATE THAT THE UAE MAY ALSO PROVIDE A SOFT LOAN OF US DOLS 9 MILLION FOR IT. THE DELEGATION WILL REPORTEDLY ALSO HOLD TALKS IN THE.

USE OF MALTA AS A TRANSHIPMENT CENTER. MINTOFF MAY ALSO BE LOOKING FOR OIL SUPPLIES AT CONCESSIONAL PRICES TO REPLACE OR AT LEAST SUPPLEMENT THE CONCESSIONAL OIL PRICE ARRANGEMENTS HE PREVIOUSLY HAD WITH LIBYA WHICH, ACCORDING TO RECENT REPORTS, HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED BY THE LIBYANS.

3. THE DELEGATION'S FIRST STOP IS THE UAE. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES THE DELEGATION TENTATIVELY PLANS TO LEAVE THERE FOR KUWAIT ON TUESDAY BUT THE DURATION OF THE VISITS TO KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. THE DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MALTA ON MARCH 26.

4. AMEMBASSY VALLETTA WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION THAT THE ACTION ADDRESSEES COULD PROVIDE CONCERNING THE VISITS OF THE MALTESE DELEGATION TO THEIR COUNTRIES. WILSON

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